## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA CHARLESTON DIVISION

David Oppenheimer,	CASE NO: 2:19-cv-3590-RMG
Plaintiff,	
v.	Memorandum in Support of Defendants  Motion for Summary Judgment
Michael C. Scarafile, Patricia R. Scarafile, Sheila Glover Romanosky, and O'Shaughnessy Real Estate, Inc., d/b/a Carolina One Real Estate,	Exhibit #20
Defendants.	) )
	, ) )

## EXHIBIT # 20

Oppenheimer v. Griffin, No. 1:18-cv-272-MR Dkt. 23 (Mar. 13, 2020, W.D.N.C.) Hearing Transcript

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA CHARLESTON DIVISION

David Oppenheimer,	) CASE NO: 2:19-cv-3590-BHH
Plaintiff,	) )
v.	) )
Michael C. Scarafile, Patricia R. Scarafile, Sheila Glover Romanosky, and O'Shaughnessy Real Estate, Inc., d/b/a Carolina One Real Estate,	) ) ) Defendants' Exhibit #50 – <i>Oppenheimen</i> ) v. <i>Griffin</i> Hearing Transcript
Defendants.	) )
	<i>)</i> )

EXHIBIT # 50

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                  UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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               WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
 3
                      ASHEVILLE DIVISION
 4
 5
     DAVID OPPENHEIMER,
 6
                Plaintiff,
                                     1:18-cv-00272-MR
 7
                                        ORIGINAL
     vs.
 8
     JAMES SEAN GRIFFIN and
 9
     JENNIFER FOWLKES GRIFFIN,
10
                Defendants.
11
12
                 TRANSCRIPT OF MOTION HEARING
13
14
     Proceedings in the matter of Cause: 17:101 Copyright
15
     Infringement held before the Honorable Martin
16
17
     Reidinger on the 4th day of December, 2019, in the
18
     United States District Court, Western District of
19
     North Carolina, 309 U.S. Courthouse Building, 100 Otis
     Street, Courtroom 1, Asheville, North Carolina,
20
21
     commencing at 2:00 p.m. and reported by Sarah G.
22
     Pierce, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary
23
     Public for the State of North Carolina.
24
25
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1	APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL	
2		
3	On behalf of the Plaintiff:	
4	DANA A. LEJUNE, ESQ. LeJune Law Firm	
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8		
9		
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1
                  PROCEEDINGS
 2
 3
          THE COURT:
                      Good afternoon. We have one
 4
    matter that is on the calender for this afternoon.
     That is Oppenheimer versus Griffin which is on for
 5
 6
     Plaintiff's Motion for Entry of a Default
 7
     Judgment.
 8
          I see counsel who I do not recognize. So, I
 9
    will allow counsel to announce his appearance.
10
          MR. LEJUNE: Yes, Your Honor.
                                         I'm Dana
11
    LeJune.
12
          THE COURT: And who do you have with you?
13
         MR. LEJUNE: This is David Oppenheimer.
14
                      Okay. As a preliminary matter,
          THE COURT:
15
    Mr. LeJune, have you provided any notice to the
16
     Defendants with regard to today's hearing?
17
          MR. LEJUNE:
                       No, Your Honor.
                                        They refused
18
     all communications and I've never gotten a
19
     response from either of the Griffins.
                                            The only
20
     time I was able to communicate with them -- I did
21
     get read receipts from some e-mails before the --
22
    well, after the private process server was
     unsuccessful and before the Court directed FedEx
23
24
    mailing.
25
          I did speak to Mr. Griffin on the phone one
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- 1 time. He answered the call but only because I
- 2 blocked my number, and as soon as I introduced
- 3 myself he hung up.
- 4 THE COURT: Well, and I wanted to ask you
- 5 about that because in what you filed here you
- 6 included a copy of an e-mail that you sent,
- 7 ostensibly, to both Defendants that refer to
- 8 following up on a telephone conversation that you
- 9 had with at least one of the Defendants.
- 10 MR. LEJUNE: Correct.
- 11 THE COURT: It read as though it was a lot
- 12 more of a communication than simply introducing
- 13 yourself and then Mr. Griffin hanging up because
- 14 you refer to responses that you got from him, the
- 15 indication that he had consulted with an attorney,
- 16 albeit a cousin or brother-in-law or something
- 17 like that. So there seems to have been more
- 18 communication than simply somebody hanging up on
- 19 you.
- 20 MR. LEJUNE: You are refreshing my
- 21 recollection, Your Honor, but I do know that he
- 22 terminated the call.
- THE COURT: Well, one of the reasons that I
- 24 asked about whether there was any notice to the
- 25 Defendants was the next thing that I want to

- 1 address is with regard to the service of process
- 2 issues. And, obviously, if they were here this
- 3 would be a lot easier. But what I don't want to
- 4 do, particularly with a Default Judgment that has
- 5 a little bit of complexity to it like this one
- 6 does -- it's not your ordinary promissory note
- 7 type of Default Judgment.
- I don't want to go through all this and then
- 9 have somebody come back later and move to set
- 10 aside the entry of default because they didn't get
- 11 proper service of process.
- 12 In looking at the record it appears that the
- 13 Summons and Complaint was served actually on
- 14 someone by the last name of Amara, not anyone
- 15 named Griffin. Do you know who this person is?
- 16 MR. LEJUNE: I don't have personal knowledge
- of who Amara is, but my understanding from the
- 18 private process server is that this is a 60-acre
- 19 high fenced compound with an electric gate. And
- 20 that there are at least three structures on the
- 21 property. One is a business; the other is a home.
- 22 I believe it's their homestead. And the other is
- 23 some type of a storage facility.
- 24 And I believe -- my recollection is it's 60
- 25 plus acres, and that they -- their business

- 1 appears to be some type of landscaping and dirt.
- 2 They sell dirt and different types of dirt and
- 3 rock. And that there are numerous implements on
- 4 the -- mechanical bulldozers and such on the
- 5 property.
- 6 And I believe that Amara is the receptionist
- 7 at the business where the Griffins operate their
- 8 business, which is also on the same 60 acres as
- 9 their home. At least the real property records
- 10 reflect that that is their homestead.
- 11 THE COURT: Well, and you've recounted a lot
- 12 of what I have gleaned from the record because at
- 13 least on one of these persons from FedEx refers to
- 14 this Mr. or Ms. Amaro as receptionist, front desk,
- which implies that it's a business. But you've
- 16 served both Defendants at the same location signed
- 17 for by the same person.
- 18 Do you have knowledge that both Defendants
- 19 work at that business? Because, for instance, if
- 20 you have Mr. Griffin working at the business and
- 21 his receptionist had signed for it, that wouldn't
- 22 be good service on Mrs. Griffin.
- 23 And it seems like that the service questions
- 24 are very ambiguous based on what I have in the
- 25 record here. I don't want to piecemeal this. If

- 1 you have a good explanation to sort of clear up
- 2 the issues for me, please let me know what it is.
- 3 MR. LEJUNE: My understanding is that Mr. and
- 4 Mrs. -- according to the background reports that I
- 5 did on the two of them, one was Lexis People
- 6 Finder. It's a pretty comprehensive thing, and
- 7 the other was a Transunion TLO comprehensive
- 8 report.
- 9 Those reflect that they both work at that
- 10 location for the family business which is, like I
- 11 said, some kind of dirt -- they sell dirt and
- 12 landscaping services.
- 13 THE COURT: So you feel sufficiently
- 14 confident that either this Mr. or Ms. Amara had
- 15 the authority to receive service of process for
- 16 both Defendants at that location?
- I don't want to go through this process and
- 18 you come back later and say I really ought to go
- 19 back and re-serve this thing.
- 20 MR. LEJUNE: I've tried every way we could,
- 21 Your Honor. My gut told me that we should have
- 22 posted the documents on the electric gate, but my
- 23 recollection is that the Court did not want to
- 24 order that kind of service, and I believe -- my
- 25 recollection is that the Court suggested the

- 1 FedEx, and I did the best I could. We tried every
- 2 which way. Your Honor, we spent almost \$500 with
- 3 the process server trying to get service on these
- 4 folks, personal service.
- 5 And there are, by the way, there are a lot of
- 6 notes on the process server's statement. I don't
- 7 believe I made that an exhibit. If the Court
- 8 would like, I have marked it Plaintiff's Exhibit
- 9 Number 5, and I can provide that to the Court.
- 10 THE COURT: Well, when you are referring to
- 11 the process server's statement, that's not the
- 12 statement from FedEx. You are talking about when
- 13 there was a failed attempt to serve process.
- 14 MR. LEJUNE: Correct. But there is lots of
- 15 detail in here about why it failed, and that it's
- 16 a compound and so forth.
- 17 THE COURT: Well, if that is your basis for
- 18 having confidence that you have good service, we
- 19 can go ahead and go forward. I think you have a
- 20 prima facie record of good service. I just, I
- 21 want to avoid two things. I want to avoid you
- 22 coming back a week after I enter the Judgment and
- 23 saying, now that I've thought about it I want to
- 24 do it over.
- 25 And I want to avoid the situation of Mr. or

- 1 Mrs. Griffin coming in a week after I enter
- 2 Judgment making a motion to say, move to set aside
- 3 the entry of Default Judgment for failure of
- 4 service of process.
- 5 If you have sufficient confidence that I'm
- 6 going to avoid both of those problems we can go
- 7 ahead and proceed.
- 8 MR. LEJUNE: I have sufficient confidence
- 9 that you will avoid the first one. And I have
- 10 probable cause to believe that they will not lift
- 11 a finger to do anything about this Judgment.
- 12 THE COURT: Well, then let's move on to my
- 13 next question because this is one that is of, I
- 14 guess, procedural significance. That the Motion
- 15 For Entry of Default Judgment that you filed kind
- 16 of left me scratching my head.
- 17 For one thing -- and I don't want to make a
- 18 big deal out of this but our local rules require
- 19 that the motion be filed with the attachments that
- 20 support the motion, and then if you are going to
- 21 file a brief that that has to be docketed as a
- 22 separate document, and you put it all in one.
- I guess the Clerk could have stricken the
- 24 document and made you do it over. I could have
- 25 done that too, but we didn't.

- 1 But what left me scratching my head was not
- 2 the failure to follow the rules. It was on the
- 3 face of the document it says Jury Demanded. But
- 4 then the text of the document presents what is in
- 5 essence the argument that I would have expected to
- 6 be presented to the jury if you really wanted a
- 7 jury.
- 8 And then one of the attachments was an
- 9 Affidavit from Mr. Oppenheimer which I would not
- 10 have expected to see as part of the filing if you
- 11 were expecting to present this to a jury.
- 12 So I set this for a hearing based on the
- 13 presumption that this reference to a jury demand
- 14 was simply an accident of copy and paste from the
- 15 complaint.
- 16 MR. LEJUNE: Absolutely.
- 17 THE COURT: Okay. So you are here today to
- 18 present your Motion For Default Judgment for a
- 19 ruling from the Court as to the evaluation of the
- 20 judgment, entry of the judgment, determination of
- 21 the amount of damages, is that correct?
- MR. LEJUNE: Yes, Your Honor. I would not
- 23 trouble eight people to do what the Court can do
- 24 in short order.
- THE COURT: Well, back years ago doing what

- 1 we used to call a Default and Inquiry -- in other
- 2 words, having a jury determine the amount of
- 3 damages on a Default Judgment was the common
- 4 practice, and I just thought maybe you were a
- 5 throwback to the way things were done years ago.
- 6 Let's move on to some of the substance here,
- 7 because after reading everything that you had
- 8 submitted I was unclear about what you were
- 9 wanting the Court to do. The first question I
- 10 have has to do with the election that a Plaintiff
- 11 has with regard to copyright damages, about the
- 12 election between statutory damages and actual
- damages under a 504B and C.
- When I read what you had submitted I read
- 15 quite a bit like you were starting to present
- 16 evidence of actual damages, and then you shifted
- 17 over to arguing about an election for statutory
- 18 damages, and that could be interpreted two ways.
- 19 Either you are giving me this information
- 20 about actual damages so that I can better evaluate
- 21 where in the range the statutory damages should
- 22 be; or, that you have not yet made an election as
- 23 to whether you want actual damages or statutory
- 24 damages.
- 25 So let me ask the threshold question. Which

- 1 of those is what you intend? 2 The only reason that I put any MR. LEJUNE: 3 information in Mr. Oppenheimer's Affidavit and the 4 Motion on what he would have charged for a license for this use, is to give the Court some idea of 5 just one element of the statutory damage range. 6 7 There are a lot of other elements, including 8 whether the acts were willful or non-willful, but 9 the only reason I included the amount that Mr. 10 Oppenheimer probably could and maybe should have 11 charged for this use the way they used it, and are 12 still using it, Your Honor -- and that's one thing 13 that I wanted to point out to the Court. 14 have not stopped. 15 THE COURT: Well, that's why you are seeking 16 the injunctive relief as well as damages, correct? 17 MR. LEJUNE: That is correct, Your Honor. 18 THE COURT: With regard to that particular 19 portion of what you have submitted, this \$9,000 20 plus, in reading the Affidavit and in reading what
- you have submitted you didn't really give me any basis for how that number was arrived upon. It
- 23 seemed more or less like it was pulled out of the
- 24 air.
- 25 If there is a calculation that underlies it,

- 1 if it was not disclosed, why should that number
- 2 mean anything to me? Or maybe should I ask, what
- 3 do you want that number to mean to the Court?
- 4 MR. LEJUNE: Well, Your Honor, I think like I
- 5 said, it's just one factor that feeds into the
- 6 Court's determination or the trier of facts
- 7 determination as to what an appropriate statutory
- 8 damage award ought to be. And if the Court wants
- 9 me to -- I can tell you that Mr. Oppenheimer uses
- 10 a computer program called Fotoguote and it's
- 11 F-o-t-o-q-u-o-t-e, and that program has -- I don't
- 12 know, thousands of variables that you plug in to
- 13 come up with a license fee that it gives some
- 14 basis for the license fee.
- 15 And some of those variables were discussed in
- 16 Mr. Oppenheimer's Affidavit which were that it is
- 17 a -- I mean, he's up in a plane, in an airplane,
- 18 and it's an open cockpit, or somewhat open. And
- 19 he's hanging out of the upper part of the cockpit
- 20 to take --
- 21 THE COURT: That's the part you gave me. I
- 22 got that part. But, again, it seems to me as
- 23 though it's a number that's pulled out of the air.
- 24 And let me go further with my question.
- 25 Here is one reason why that number did not

- 1 make a lot of sense to me, because the use to
- 2 which the Defendants apparently put this
- 3 photograph was as one photograph out of many on a
- 4 listing for a rental property, a vacation rental
- 5 property, to identify the location of the
- 6 property.
- 7 In fact, it's this photograph and then there
- 8 is a circle with an arrow, I believe, that says,
- 9 "Here is where the house is."
- 10 And it seems that that is a relatively
- 11 minimal use. In other words, it is a very small
- 12 part of what use -- it's a very small part of what
- 13 the Defendants were doing in listing this
- 14 property.
- As a result of that, it seems that for that
- 16 sort of use, no Defendant, no property listing
- person would have any interest in paying a \$9,700
- 18 license fee for a location photo.
- 19 Therefore, it seemed to me that this number
- 20 was pulled out of the air, or at least was
- 21 completely detached from the nature of the use to
- 22 which the Defendants put it. And, therefore, it
- 23 became an entirely hypothetical number. It was a
- number based on the background of the
- 25 photographer, not the background of the use.

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1
          MR. LEJUNE: May I respond?
                      So tell me why that number should
 2
          THE COURT:
 3
    mean anything to me.
 4
          MR. LEJUNE: While the photograph is one
     of -- I don't know, I didn't count them -- 15
 5
 6
     different photographs, each of the photographs on
 7
     the website when one clicks on it takes up the
 8
    whole screen.
                    It opens up. And it's not just a
 9
     location -- it's not just revealing the location
10
     of their rental property in relation to the ski
11
                It is an advertising -- it shows the
    mountain.
12
     slopes, and it shows the surrounding area, and it
13
     is an enticement for people to rent a house at
14
     that mountain. And so it really is more than one
15
     of several.
                  It is as important as any of them,
16
     and probably as important as the interior photos
17
     of the rental property.
18
          With regard to why the number that Mr.
19
    Oppenheimer derived from to put in there, I'm
20
    happy to have -- if the Court wants to ask Mr.
21
     Oppenheimer questions about that, or have me ask
22
     him to better support that number as being just
23
     one part of the statutory damage range, I'm happy
24
     to have either one of those happen.
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THE COURT: Well, this isn't my proceeding.

25

- 1 I don't tell lawyers how to try their case. If
- 2 you want to supplement your record in light of the
- 3 fact that it has been set for hearing I'll allow
- 4 you to put a witness on the stand if you want to.
- 5 I'm not telling you that I expect it. I'm not
- 6 telling you that I want you to.
- 7 MR. LEJUNE: Well, it sounds like I ought to,
- 8 so whenever the Court is ready for me to do that
- 9 I'm willing.
- 10 THE COURT: Well, let me go through some of
- 11 these other questions because it may have an
- 12 effect on what you want to ask this witness,
- 13 because part of what you argue in your motion has
- 14 to do with this so-called scarcity factor. That
- 15 because of the nature of what was involved in
- 16 taking this photograph that there is a certain
- 17 multiplier factor that could or that should come
- 18 into play.
- 19 But in terms of showing an aerial shot,
- whether by photograph or other means, schematic,
- 21 et cetera, of something that's as popular as the
- 22 Beach Mountain Ski Resort, you can get on the
- 23 internet and this photograph is not at all unique.
- 24 There are several other photographs. I notice
- 25 that some of them are also taken by Mr.

- 1 Oppenheimer. But there are several other
- 2 photographs of the same set of ski slopes.
- 3 There is a lot of promotional material that
- 4 is published by the Beach Mountain Ski Resort that
- 5 show very much the same thing. Under those
- 6 circumstances, how is there any scarcity? The
- 7 cases that you cite regarding the scarcity factor
- 8 seem to be in a very different context of a
- 9 photograph that was of a particular thing that's
- 10 very hard to photograph, nobody else had managed
- 11 to photograph it. It was no longer available to
- 12 photograph. I can also see it like in the context
- of, I think the ordinary context of a scarcity
- 14 factor is the Zapruder film. That one image of
- 15 that one moment that nobody else got. None of
- 16 this has any application here, does it?
- 17 MR. LEJUNE: Well, Your Honor, I would say
- 18 this. Having not deposed the Griffins, I believe
- 19 that they picked this image out of all of those
- others that they could find on the internet
- 21 because it was the best. Because it best
- 22 represented what they wanted to depict, to depict
- 23 to advertise their ski lodge.
- 24 And the fact that they didn't pick
- 25 photographs of, or a photograph of Beach Mountain

- 1 that's on the Beach Mountain website tells you
- 2 that this image is, I think better than the
- 3 others.
- In terms of scarcity it does take some --
- 5 this image also was taken after a very heavy and
- 6 rare snow storm in that area. I believe --
- 7 THE COURT: Wait a minute. In the area
- 8 around Boone you are calling it a rare snow storm?
- 9 They are not rare up there. They have snow storms
- 10 every other week in that area.
- 11 MR. LEJUNE: I think this one was a
- 12 particularly big storm. I would have to look at
- 13 the Almanac. But I would also point out to the
- 14 Court that the scarcity of a really good
- 15 photograph, aerial photograph of Beach Mountain
- 16 has to do with the equipment that's used, the
- 17 pilot that is flying, and the skill of the
- 18 photographer.
- And so while those elements might not be
- 20 obvious to the Court or to a lay person just
- 21 casually looking at the picture, I think when
- 22 compared with the others that might be available
- on the internet, either for license or not for
- license, I think this image will stack up as a
- 25 rare shot.

1 Are there any particular factors THE COURT: that you can point to in this photograph that make 2 3 it such a rare shot, or that can cause you to look 4 at it as a basis for this one being the best 5 depiction of what is there compared to what else 6 is available? 7 MR. LEJUNE: I think I would let Mr. 8 Oppenheimer speak to that. 9 Okay. Well, I would say it THE COURT: 10 sounds like you are going to be calling him, so 11 we'll go on to that here in just a few minutes. 12 I have several questions that are of a legal 13 nature, but I want to leave those until after I've 14 heard all the evidence. But there is one thing 15 that may play into some evidence that you want to 16 present. And it doesn't have to do with the 504 17 damages but it does have to do with the DMCA 18 damages, and that has to do with the number of 19 violations. Because in going through the material 20 in the file it appeared to me that this photo was 21 posted by the Defendants. 22 It is alleged that it was posted by the Defendants and, therefore, admitted by virtue of 23 24 their default, but it was posted to 10 websites,

25

not 12.

- 1 MR. LEJUNE: I think we made a mistake.
- 2 THE COURT: Okay.
- 3 MR. LEJUNE: I figured that out just before
- 4 we started the hearing. I think it's 11 and not
- 5 12.
- 6 THE COURT: Okay. I came up with 10, but
- 7 maybe that is something else that as a matter of
- 8 fact that you might want to clear up with the
- 9 evidence.
- 10 I have other questions that go to
- 11 interpretations of the law, but I at least wanted
- 12 to throw those things out before you put any
- 13 witness on the stand. So if you are wanting to
- 14 call Mr. Oppenheimer, I would say now would be the
- 15 opportunity.
- 16 MR. LEJUNE: Yes, Your Honor. Do you want
- 17 him to go to the witness box or can he testify
- 18 from here?
- 19 THE COURT: No. I want him to come forward
- 20 to the Clerk's desk to be sworn and then to get up
- 21 on the witness stand.
- 22 MR. LEJUNE: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 23 COURTROOM DEPUTY: Would you put your left
- 24 hand on the Bible, please, and raise your hand.
- Do you solemnly swear the testimony you are

- about to give in the matter now before the Court
- will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing
- 3 but the truth, so help you God?
- 4 MR. OPPENHEIMER: Yes, I do.
- 5 THE COURT: You may proceed.
- 6 MR. LEJUNE: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 7 EXAMINATION
- 8 BY MR. LEJUNE:
- 9 Q. Mr. Oppenheimer, did you review your
- 10 Declaration that's attached to the motion this
- 11 morning?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And I just want to be sure that, did you want
- 14 to make any corrections or changes to that
- 15 Declaration?
- 16 A. No.
- 17 Q. You heard Judge Reidinger. He has some
- 18 issues. He has some problems with the relative --
- 19 well, first of all, that he would like more
- 20 information from you about how you came up with the
- 9,000 plus dollars damage in license fees had you been
- 22 asked for a license fee. Do you have anything to add
- 23 to that?
- A. Fotoquote has a coaching guide. I don't have
- 25 the program in front of me and didn't review it before

- 1 coming here today. But it suggests value-added
- 2 factors for a license, and some of those value-added
- 3 factors are risk, cost; whether or not it's an aerial
- 4 photo which is separate from risk which creates a
- 5 unique photo; whether the photo is used with a
- 6 watermark which prevents further infringements or
- 7 downloading infringements; and separate from a
- 8 watermark, whether or not the work is used with
- 9 attribution. And those are all value-added factors,
- 10 which those I believe were relevant in this matter.
- 11 Also, Photoquote recommends licensing per
- website, and so this wasn't 9,000 plus dollars for use
- in one website, but it was use of nearly two dozen.
- 14 And Photoquote recommends a 10 percent discount after
- 15 the third website, I believe. So it's not like
- 16 license it for one website and then, you know, pay 10
- 17 percent more for each additional website. It's
- 18 significant to use across the board on every booking
- 19 agency and travel type website, you know, or quite a
- 20 few.
- 21 Q. And did you use a length of time variable to
- 22 come up to input into the Photoguote?
- 23 A. Photoquote also considers duration of use,
- 24 and I can't recall offhand if we had put one or two
- 25 years in at the time.

- 1 Q. It was two.
- THE COURT: Mr. LeJune, let the witness
- 3 testify rather than you doing it.
- 4 MR. LEJUNE: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.
- 5 BY MR. LEJUNE:
- Q. Do you know if it was more than two years?
- 7 A. I believe they are still using -- I looked
- 8 and they are using the photos on at least four
- 9 websites as of today.
- 10 Q. And what are those websites?
- 11 A. One is Travelocity. I think Ebookers, I
- 12 believe Orbitz, and there is a fourth one.
- MR. LEJUNE: May I refresh his memory, Your
- 14 Honor?
- 15 THE COURT: You may.
- 16 BY MR. LEJUNE:
- 17 Q. I believe that's the fourth one.
- 18 A. Expedia.
- 19 Q. And did you print these off this morning?
- 20 A. From my computer, from the internet, not from
- 21 anything else cached.
- 22 Q. The Court brought up a point that I think is
- 23 interesting, and I wanted to see if you had any
- 24 information on that. Judge Reidinger mentioned that
- 25 he suspected that no single property, home, or resort

- owner would ever want to spend 9,000 plus dollars to
- 2 use a photograph like this one. Have you ever
- 3 licensed any of your photographs for that kind of
- 4 money?
- 5 A. I work a lot on selling prints. That's a big
- 6 effort in my photography business, and while I do
- 7 license them for a single image, I don't think I have
- 8 received that kind of payment. But I would if some of
- 9 the companies that have infringed had contacted me
- 10 initially.
- 11 Q. Okay. Did you look at any other images of
- 12 Beach Mountain, or have you ever looked at any other
- images, aerial images of Beach Mountain?
- 14 A. I tend not to look at other people's work at
- 15 stuff that I'm going to do. You know, in looking at
- 16 my photos online after the fact I've seen similar
- ones, but none come to mind. I rarely look at other
- 18 people's works that are similar to mine.
- 19 Q. The Judge had a question. He was wondering
- 20 is there anything that makes this image special or
- 21 super special, in your mind, as opposed to others that
- 22 are on the web?
- 23 A. I believe that I've honed in a skill and
- 24 technique to capture the Blue Ridge Mountains in a
- 25 unique way that very few people have tried, let alone

- 1 successfully undertaken. The low altitude open canopy
- 2 aircraft without having glare and reflection and
- 3 distortion is kind of unique. Not many people do open
- 4 air aerial photography.
- 5 This was after a particularly large snow
- 6 storm, and Boone does get a lot of snow and they do
- 7 make snow, so the slopes typically have snow
- 8 throughout the winter. But in this picture the tree
- 9 tops and the surrounding mountain sides were covered
- 10 with snow which really added to the effect, you know,
- 11 because there is a lot of years where it's warm and
- 12 the trails will have snow but everything else doesn't,
- 13 and it doesn't look as much like a ski area.
- 14 And this photo was taken kind of to the
- 15 front. And it's a tricky lighting situation because
- 16 it's a north facing mountain and so the sun is
- 17 backlit, and balancing out the exposure and also the
- 18 shutter so that there is not a blur makes -- there is
- 19 a lot of creative decisions that go into creating
- 20 works like this.
- 21 And when I'm up there I usually don't see
- 22 other planes flying around doing -- even in a peak day
- 23 of fall color this year I was up flying and I didn't
- 24 see anyone else for two hours.
- Q. So, I wanted to satisfy the Judge. This

- 1 morning you and I discovered that there were not 12,
- 2 as argued in the Motion, different websites where we
- 3 know it was used. Do you know how many there actually
- 4 were?
- 5 A. I didn't realize the discrepancy until after
- 6 I had left the house and so I wasn't able to go
- 7 through my records and see if there was one that we
- 8 left out, and we did have 12 or we miscounted.
- 9 Q. Well, it's A through K and I count 11.
- 10 A. I've counted 11 on the document but for some
- 11 reason I had thought it was 12, so I'm not sure where
- 12 that discrepancy came in. But I'm certain from
- 13 looking at the Declaration and reviewing the websites
- 14 that those are 11 distinct, different websites.
- And we had a concern that some of these might
- 16 be unrelated listings but they showed the inside of
- 17 the same house, so it was unlikely that it was a
- 18 different property and a different person.
- 19 Q. Okay. I think that's all I have for you.
- 20 EXAMINATION
- 21 THE COURT: I want to follow-up on a couple
- of things, Mr. Oppenheimer. First on this issue
- of the website, on the websites that are listed in
- your Affidavit, of the 11 that are listed, A
- through K, three of them are on the same website,

- 1 homeaway, with almost identical information. Is
- 2 that three times that the photo is posted on the
- 3 same listing or are those different listings?
- 4 THE WITNESS: Can I grab my Declaration?
- 5 THE COURT: Mr. LeJune, if you would please
- 6 hand a copy to Mr. Oppenheimer.
- 7 MR. LEJUNE: May it please the Court.
- 8 THE COURT: I'm looking at paragraph 6 of
- 9 your Declaration where it has subparts H, I and J.
- 10 THE WITNESS: I've made a mistake here, and
- 11 those are image URLs not actual listing URLs, and
- 12 I apologize to the Court for that mistake.
- 13 THE COURT: So there are nine that you are
- identifying, is that correct?
- 15 THE WITNESS: I'm counting eight complete
- 16 different websites that displayed the work. I
- 17 apologize again.
- There is booking.com, vrbo.com,
- 19 rentbyowner.com, expedia.com, travelocity.com,
- 20 ebookers.ie, j2ski.com and homeaway.com, and I did
- 21 not catch that those were image URLs.
- 22 THE COURT: The only thing I wanted to
- 23 follow-up on is this Photoquote software. Have
- 24 you ever used that Photoquote software to arrive
- 25 upon an amount in an agreement for a license for

- 1 one of your photographs?
- 2 THE WITNESS: I think I'm understanding you
- 3 correctly. Have I used it in my business practice
- 4 to establish licenses?
- 5 THE COURT: Well, my question is narrower
- 6 than that. Have you ever used that software to
- 7 come up with a licensing value that was then
- 8 placed into a licensing agreement where the
- 9 licensee agreed to that figure?
- 10 THE WITNESS: Not that I recall. It's
- 11 usually negotiated, but I use that as a starting
- 12 point.
- 13 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.
- 14 Mr. LeJune, do you have anything else that
- you want to follow up with with Mr. Oppenheimer?
- 16 MR. LEJUNE: I don't believe so, Your Honor.
- 17 Thank you.
- 18 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Oppenheimer. You
- 19 may return to your table.
- 20 Mr. LeJune, I mentioned earlier that I still
- 21 had some questions of a legal nature. The first
- one has to do with 504 damages. Am I correct to
- 23 understand that the award of 504 damages, whether
- 24 actual damages or statutory damages, would be one
- one award of damages as jointly and severally

1 against both Defendants? 2 Correct. MR. LEJUNE: One statutory damage 3 award is allowed per work infringed not -- unlike 4 the DMCA, it's not per iteration of infringement. And since it was eight work 5 THE COURT: 6 infringed by Mr. and Mrs. Griffin acting in 7 concert, it would be one award and they would be 8 jointly and severely liable, and that's what you 9 are seeking, correct? 10 MR. LEJUNE: Yes, sir. 11 And I think you partially THE COURT: 12 answered this a moment ago with regard to the 13 DMCA, and that is even though it's the same image 14 that was posted to each of these different 15 websites, do I understand correctly that it is 16 your contention that each posting to a separate 17 website therefore constitutes a separate violation 18 entitling Mr. Oppenheimer to a separate award of 19 damages under the DMCA? 20 MR. LEJUNE: Yes, sir, that is I believe a 21 correct statement of the law in every circuit. 22 And so that the removal of the digital copyright 23 management information is probably more important

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cropped out his circle C or left it completely

and more damaging to Mr. Oppenheimer than had they

24

25

- 1 intact. 2 I probably should have asked him this but my understanding, Your Honor, is that the copyright 3 4 management information he puts in the digital images that has such things as his name, his 5 6 mailing address, his website address, his e-mail 7 address, it has a lot of information there so that 8 he doesn't lose control of his photograph. 9 We've had -- with Mr. Oppenheimer, in fact, 10 we've had cases where downstream infringers all 11 claimed innocent infringement because the works 12 had no indication that they were protected by 13 copyright because his information was cropped out 14 and removed from the digital CMI. 15 And it's especially true of realtors. 16 Realtors tend to like to use these photographs 17 that they get off the internet to sell property, 18 and they will remove everything and crop it down 19 so that -- and it goes into the MLS and it just 20 goes wild because -- and some of the realtors 21 don't even know how to call it back or get it off 22 And so that's a real problem with the of there. internet and how's easy is to right click and 23
- 25 THE COURT: It seems like realtors would know

24

take.

- 1 very easily how to get it off of there simply by
- 2 selling the property and making it unavailable.
- 3 MR. LEJUNE: Right. I have had one case
- 4 where Carolina MLS is a separate entity from the
- 5 national MLS, and the lawyer that was defending
- 6 the infringer simply could not get them to take it
- 7 down. It went on for months, and I don't know why
- 8 that is, but the realtors themselves could not get
- 9 it down with key strokes.
- 10 THE COURT: With regard to there being a
- 11 separate award of damages under the DMCA for each
- 12 separate posting or posting to a separate website,
- 13 would you argue that those amounts should be the
- 14 same, or is there like a decreasing sanction?
- I don't want to say a decreasing value
- 16 because that's not what DMCA is trying to measure.
- 17 But is there a decreasing sanction as there are
- 18 more violations?
- 19 MR. LEJUNE: I haven't thought about it, Your
- 20 Honor. I can't really comment on that. I would
- 21 suspect that they all should be the same because
- 22 it is a penalty for the act of removal and
- 23 distribution, and I just don't see what the
- 24 argument would be for reduction.
- 25 If we knew in time when the first one got on

- 1 VRBO or whatever, and each one successively in
- 2 terms of the chronology, if that were possible,
- 3 perhaps the latest one perhaps should be a lesser
- 4 penalty. But I don't know how to determine the
- 5 chronology of postings on these websites.
- 6 Sometimes the internet archive that was
- 7 called the Wayback Machine, one can determine that
- 8 but it doesn't -- it's not very accurate. It
- 9 doesn't crawl every website every day, and so you
- 10 might be able to pin it down to a 30 or 60-day
- 11 period but you might not. Probably would not be
- 12 able to for every one.
- 13 THE COURT: Okay. I think you have covered
- everything that I wanted to ask you, and of course
- 15 asking questions was my whole reason for setting
- 16 this for hearing. But you have covered everything
- 17 that I had in my notes that I wanted to cover so
- 18 if you have something else that you want to add
- 19 this is your opportunity.
- 20 MR. LEJUNE: Your Honor, the only thing I
- 21 would say is that in almost 36 years of practice,
- 22 and I'm a litigation practice, I have never had so
- 23 much trouble getting a Defendant served, even
- 24 after communicating with them that, you know, we
- 25 are not going to just forget about it. We are

- 1 going to go forward with a lawsuit and we are
- 2 going to get a Judgment.
- 3 I just never have spent this much time
- 4 getting to the point where we are now. And I have
- 5 never tried to collect a Judgment in Florida, but
- 6 I understand it's more a debtor state than even
- 7 Texas is, and so --
- 8 THE COURT: Under the circumstances here
- 9 that's not your problem because you have the
- 10 property in North Carolina to go after.
- 11 MR. LEJUNE: One never knows what the
- 12 mortgage -- how mortgaged up the property is. And
- 13 I've tried to figure that out and haven't been
- 14 able to yet. And I suspect I will do post
- 15 Judgment discovery, and maybe subpoena the lender,
- 16 but I understand Florida is a difficult place to
- 17 collect a Judgment.
- 18 And this property as far as I can tell is the
- 19 only property that this couple owns in the State
- 20 of North Carolina.
- 21 So thank you for taking your time to hear us
- 22 out, Your Honor, and I have a new respect for
- 23 Judge Reidinger. I didn't expect to argue or
- 24 answer any questions. Usually it's just you file
- 25 the documents and you get a Judgment. So, I

```
1
     appreciate the Court giving us this time.
 2
          THE COURT:
                      If I have a reputation at all it
     is the reputation of always having a hundred
 3
 4
     questions, so that's what you got today.
          MR. LEJUNE:
                       I know that now.
 5
                                          Thank you,
 6
     Your Honor.
 7
          THE COURT:
                      Thank you for your presentation.
 8
     I appreciate all the time that you've put into
     this.
 9
          Marshall, that's the last item that we have
10
11
     on the calendar for today, so if you could recess
12
     us until further call.
13
          COURTROOM MARSHALL: All rise, please.
14
          This Honorable Court stands in recess until
     further call. God save this United States and
15
     this Honorable Court.
16
17
          (Proceedings concluded at 3:00 p.m.)
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
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1	CERTIFICATE
2	NORTH CAROLINA
3	HENDERSON COUNTY:
4	
5	I, Sarah G. Pierce, RPR, and Notary Public in
6	and for the State of North Carolina, do hereby certify
7	that on December 4, 2019, that the foregoing
8	Proceedings was taken by me in stenotype and
9	thereafter reduced to typewritten form by me; that the
10	foregoing is a true record of the Proceedings and
11	testimony given by the witness.
12	I further certify that I am not of kin or
13	associated with any of the parties to this action or
14	their counsel and that I am not interested in the
15	events thereof.
16	This the 10th day of March, 2020.
17	S C Pin
18	Jarah G. Fierce
19	Sarah G. Pierce, RPR Notary Public Number 201532200163
20	My Commission Expires November 16, 2020.
21	November 10, 2020.
22	
23	
24	
25	

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